



Countywide Planning Policies

Development Patterns



Overview

The Development Patterns chapter of the **Countywide Planning Policies** (CPPs) guides the development of population and job growth in jurisdictions throughout King County by addressing the location, types, design, and intensity of land uses.

The chapter includes policies establishing urban growth areas, focusing growth into cities and centers, promoting urban design strategies to create healthy and sustainable communities, and protecting rural and resource lands.

The policies direct how and when changes can be made to urban growth area boundaries, how growth targets are created and used as land use assumptions in comprehensive plans, and joint planning and annexation procedures.

Policy Changes

This update to the Development Patterns chapter aligns local planning with regional quantitative and qualitative growth goals – ensuring targets are used in comprehensive plans, focusing growth into regional centers, establishing a new tier of countywide centers, aligning countywide policies with regional policy on large developments in the rural area, and promoting more integrated urban design and green building.

The update also emphasizes the need to address equity in local planning and development to ensure that residents and workers throughout King County have equitable access to housing, well-paying jobs, education, transportation choices, and recreation.

The update fills in policy gaps related to accessing healthy food, ensuring consistency between special purpose district plans and regional and countywide plans. It also encourages more collaboration between local jurisdictions in Potential Annexation Areas (PAAs) and alignment of the CPPs to policies and programs that guide how the urban growth area can be amended.

Impacts of Policy Changes

- Solidifies the collaborative process used to develop the Buildable Lands Report and establish growth targets.
- Clarifies the relationship of growth targets to comprehensive plans, creating stronger links to planned land use assumptions.
- Informs comprehensive plan and development regulations updates, as well as jurisdictions' practices and procedures.
- Designs a process to designate candidate Countywide Centers that will be considered for permanent designation in future Comprehensive Plan updates.
- Fosters equity and social justice by identifying where policies may have disparate impacts and promotes more equitable access to opportunity.
- Clarifies how large-scale developments in the rural area, such as four-to-one projects and Fully Contained Communities, are to be addressed.

We Need Your Input!

If you would like to provide public comment, have questions about the CPPs or growth management, or want to get involved, please send an email to gmpc@kingcounty.gov or contact Ben Larson by calling (206) 263-9560.

What are the Countywide Planning Policies?

The Countywide Planning Policies or CPPs are a series of policies that address growth management issues in King County. The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) brings together elected officials from King County and the cities and jurisdictions within it to develop the CPPs.

The CPPs provide a countywide vision and serve as a framework for King County and every city in King County to develop its own comprehensive plan, which must be consistent with the CPPs and [VISION 2050](#).

For more on CPPs, Comprehensive Plans, and other growth management related information, please visit the King County Regional Planning page by clicking [this link](#).